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SITUATION REPORTS

POLAND

Preparations continue for introducing Soviet and Warsaw Pact combat units into Poland.

We continue to receive reports that Soviet and Warsaw Pact forces are being placed on alert. An unconfirmed report on 2 December indicated that some Czechoslovak and Hungarian forces were on alert because of the Polish situation. The same source reported on 4 December that Czechoslovak reservists had been called up.

Soviet Planning

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~~Top Secret~~

11 December 1980

113  
127

~~Top Secret~~

[REDACTED]

In a speech to a party conference yesterday, Soviet Defense Minister Ustinov called for greater vigilance in the face of imperialist and reactionary assaults upon socialist countries, "in particular socialist Poland." He is the first Soviet Politburo member other than Brezhnev to speak out directly on Poland. Brezhnev made his remarks on 30 October when he met with First Secretary Kania. [REDACTED]

Ustinov's remarks reflect the heightened Soviet concern over Poland and may have been intended both as a rebuff to Western cautioning against intervention and as a warning to the Polish unions. [REDACTED]

#### Polish Domestic Situation

Solidarity announced yesterday that it will form a special committee to seek the release of all political prisoners, including 10 members of a radical dissident organization. The announcement will reinforce the belief of party hardliners that the union will not respect the party's political prerogatives and is intent on acting as an alternate political power. [REDACTED]

A Solidarity spokesman said that the committee, made up of nine members including Solidarity leader Walesa, intends to invite prominent intellectuals to join it. He gave no indication of what steps the committee intends to take next. [REDACTED]

The release of all political prisoners was one of the demands made by the Warsaw chapter of Solidarity in late November and was slated for union-government negotiations last week. The negotiations did not take place. [REDACTED]

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~~Top Secret~~

11 December 1980



~~Top Secret~~  
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The formation of this committee may be a move by Solidarity's national body to remove the issue from the hands of the Warsaw chapter, which was very militant on the issue. The move may also be intended to put the regime on notice that Solidarity intends to stand by the intellectuals and dissidents who have been supporting the union. The committee also may be a response to the regime's recent arrest of several more members of a radical dissident group. [REDACTED]

Solidarity's action may upset the understanding reportedly reached between government and union representatives in a secret meeting last Sunday. Each side agreed to take all possible steps to avoid confrontation and to control its followers. [REDACTED]

The Polish Army newspaper yesterday issued its third strongly worded statement on events in Poland in as many days. The statement justified the concern of Poland's Warsaw Pact allies about Poland's domestic situation by citing Poland's key transit and communications lines. It pledged the military's support to "socialist renewal"--including the acceptance of Solidarity--but rejected "political subversion, anarchy, and chaos." [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The three articles seem intended to pressure Solidarity for moderation, to reassure the Soviets that the military is aware of its duty, and to enhance ideological work within the military--especially among inductees. (S NF NC OC)

#### Film Ban Protest

A reliable report indicates that the government's reversal of its earlier decision to allow the showing of a candid film on the summer strikes is provoking popular protests. [REDACTED]

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11 December 1980